

P.O. Box 34071
Bethesda, Md. 20817

4/12/84

Dear Mr. Fitzgibbon,

Many thanks for your 4/11 and its kind comments.

With regard to Stanley Ross, I enclose a copy of a few of the clippings. I also have and will copy for you if you'd like his 4/16/67 article in the National Enquirer and the 15 pp FBI report that is published by the Warren Commission as CE 956, in Vol. 22 if you have those volumes.

I don't know whether you'll ever be able to use the CIA's prior record in ex parte affidavits used in camera, but if you ever need an example of how horrendous they are, I have those used in the Beins case in federal district court, Baltimore.

I don't recall clearly what Theobaris said of Schmahl but Jim Loner has ordered a copy and it is indexed. He also has a xerox of T.'s excellent chapter on FBI files you may want to read. I made the xerox when I had a borrowed copy of the book, At Beyond the Kiss Case. After the publicity T. is swamped with work in addition to his work load at Marquette, which is probably why he let you know of the microfilm.

Glad you've been in touch with Vivian Castillo and that she is being helpful. She did not respond when I wrote and asked her about Nando in Venezuela.

While it may be without significance in the Galindez case, Nando had a rather good short-wave receiver in his Woodner apartment and several times when I was there took time out to listen to broadcasts from the D.R.

I'm sorry that a few names escape me but there were some progressive and some pretendedly progressive Latin Americans in Washington in that era, people who if still alive might be able to help you. Also some IA diplomats and staff.

Have you thought of the Rounaldi archive at ADL-CIO? About 16 years ago I was able to arrange for it to be examined by a doctoral candidate for his thesis. The late Serafino R was Irving Brown's Latin American counterpart. He and his people kept watch on what was going on there, aside from their participation in events, including for the CIA, as in Guyana.

Until your decision I'd never heard of CIA abstracts. Those of the FBI are a very useful condensation and identification of each and every FBIHQ record. Once I exposed them the FBI reportedly discontinued them. I note the coincidence in time but do not know whether there is a cause-effect relationship. One of their values to - and dangers to - the FBI is their usefulness in searching because they are arranged by date and by serial number. The source and addressee of every record is thus posted, along with its date and a summary of its contents, all on 3x5s.

Thanks for the offer re Gatlin but I have no interest in him. My approach is not the same as Bud's and I do not theorize whodunits.

My own work is not progressing but I'm hoping that soon I will be writing again. I intend to resume writing when I have no reason to anticipate any FOIA litigation interruptions because the changed conditions and requirements of my life leave such less time for these kinds of work. I spend the first part of every day except Sunday in walking therapy, ought have some additional exercise throughout the day and am not supposed to sit for more than 20 minutes at a time. None of this is conducive to concentration. The two remaining cases are both on appeal. One at least involves significant precedents.

My most recent exchange with the CIA may interest you. I enclose copies.

Good luck!

April 11, 1984
P. O. Box 34071
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Many thanks for your letter of yesterday. Let me say that I am happy to meet you through the mail, for I have long admired your FOIA tenacity.

I was indeed lucky to draw Judge Harold Greene, who seems to be one of the few judges willing to take the agencies' persiflage for what it is. The one problem he presents is that he is terribly slow, which I attribute in great part to his AT&T burdens. Apropos his November decision in my case, the CIA moved for reconsideration, which he granted, and on December 19 filed a top secret affidavit (even though none of the documents in the Galindez case was classified higher than secret) which he is now mulling. Whatever his reconsidered decision, the CIA has already announced that it will appeal, and so losing no time I will of course crossappeal. The case thus has far to go.

Several years ago I was in touch with the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and Peter Irons about Horace Schmahl. None of that group knew anything about his activities in the Galindez case, but one of them--perhaps Irons--sent me copies of documents unearthed in the National Archives about his doings in the late 1930s and early 1940s. They were quite useful in putting together a general Schmahl biography, and I intend to do some further research on Schmahl at the Archives when time allows. I did not suspect that Athan Theoharis might know anything about Schmahl and so never contacted him on that score, but following the publicity several weeks ago about his receipt of the Hoover and Nichols files I sent him a tickler request for anything in them he might find on the Galindez case, Trujillo, the Dominican Republic, and related topics. He sent back a form letter saying that the two files would soon be available on microfilm but nothing about indexing them, whereupon I lost interest. It is all a matter of priorities.

Colonel Fernandez Castillo's widow still lives in Washington and I have been usefully in touch with her about the whereabouts and status of still-living personalities from the Galindez case.

I have not talked to Dan Kurzman but will make it a point to do so if I can locate him.

I had lunch with Morris Ernst in December 1973. Sadly, though he still defended his intervention in the case, his memory was too far gone by then to hold an intelligent conversation with him. I have a general idea of his ups and downs with Hoover and Nichols, but if you have more information I would certainly welcome it. Alan Schwartz, then an associate in his law firm and his chief aide in his Galindez inquiry, now practices movie law in Beverly Hills and has said he will welcome a long interview whenever I get out there.

I am not sure what you mean by "CIA abstracts" and cannot at the moment check page 36 of the decision since I have given my last copy to my typist to make more copies (I have had many requests for it). I have, however, entered all relevant data from the FBI's inventory worksheets, the two agencies' Vaughns, my index of the several thousand interviews the FBI conducted in the case, and my index to the State Department's releases in a computer. With it I can make what the National Security Agency calls "traffic analyses" which are quite useful. The data in this system include serial numbers, dates, and other descriptors.

Stanley Ross was a major figure of the second rank in the case, I have gathered much information about him, and my impressions of him agree with yours. Have you any more information about him? I imagine that I will begin putting my information together and writing his bionote in about a month.

Are you at all interested in Maurice Gatlin, the New Orleans lawyer? Bud Fensterwald let me see his collection of documents about him, but it turned out that the only materials I did not already have were some New Orleans newspaper clips. Since Gatlin was a third-rank figure in the Galindez case I do not intend to pursue his life too keenly, but I did follow up one of the clips by writing the Puerto Rican police and vital statistics people with regard to his May 1965 death in San Juan. His death certificate has still to reach me, but today I received a letter from the police regretting that they had routinely destroyed their report on his death after ten years but enclosing a carbon of the local medical examiner's autopsy report. It found that he had committed suicide; drug and alcohol tests were negative. If it is important, I can make and send you a translation of the autopsy report and forward a copy of the death certificate when it arrives.

How does your own work progress? In the late 1970s, probably because the FOIA was new and novel, the requester community seemed more tightly knit and I was better aware of what the major requesters were doing than I am now. Best of luck with your research.

Sincerely yours,


Alan L. Fitzgibbon